

Syllabus for PSY 132 Psychology and Culture Spring 2009 CRN 21730

*PSY 132 has been accepted in the AGEC and for the Global Awareness (G) requirement.

Description: This course will focus on human diversity in behavior and culture using examples from a variety of contexts and nations. It will examine the processes of enculturation, socialization, and human development around the world and include discussions of current international events. Controversial topics such as religion and politics are included.

Instructor: Rita Flattley, M.Ed Email: rflattley@pima.edu

Web Site: http://ecc.pima.edu/~rflattley/psy_culture.htm

NOTE: You MUST include the course number in the subject line of an email message, and please do NOT send assignments as email attachments due to virus & spam problems.

Office: O 1 162 Mon/Wed 8:45 – 9:45 am or Tue/Thur 9 – 10 am or by email

Phone: 206-7634 days or leave a message

Texts: Cross-Cultural Psychology, 3rd Ed. by Shiraev and Levy Allyn & Bacon pub.

Attendance and Participation:

Regular attendance is part of your grade. Student presentations and discussions are key elements of interactive learning in this course. **If you can not attend you may be better off in a self paced class. You may be withdrawn at the 45th day for nonattendance, or may fail the course if you stop attending without withdrawing from the class through Admissions.**

Guiding Questions:

Can we learn to appreciate other cultures without judging them by our own standards?

Is it possible for people of diverse cultures to live in peace?

Is there really any such thing as a fundamental “human nature” or are all people different?

Important Dates for Spring 2009

Classes Start Tuesday, January 20

Registration / Add Period Jan. 20 - 26

Refund Deadline Monday, February 2

Graduation Application Deadline Wednesday, February 25

Rodeo Days Thursday & Friday, Feb. 26 - 27

Spring Break March 15 - 22

Withdrawal Deadline Thursday, April 9

Finals Week May 13 - 19

Arizona state law requires that any information given to the instructor regarding any abuse of a minor must be reported to a police officer and may be investigated by campus police.

Students who do not attend regularly may be withdrawn from the class roster or may fail the class. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities when a minimum of five working days advance notice is given. Contact Disabled Student Resources in L-231 or call 206-7699 for more information

Class Schedule

The purpose of this schedule is to enable you to keep up with readings and assignments. Occasional changes and adjustments may occur throughout the semester that will be announced in class - another reason to be there! **NOTE:** Chapters are not always in order!

Unit I Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology and its Methods

Week #1 January 20 -22 Introduction to Course: Topics, Methods, Expectations.
Review syllabus and grading, ideas about cultural comparisons and ethics.

Week #2 January 27 - 29 Studying Cross-Cultural Psychology – Science and Values
READ Ch. 1 Understanding Cross-Cultural Psychology. Basic approaches and issues in cross-cultural psychology. Ethnocentrism, indigenous psychologies, history of the field.

Week #3 February 3 - 5 Methodology in cross-cultural research
READ Ch. 2 Methodology, and the scientific method as applied to psychology.
Common sources of error in thinking about human behavior. Locating and evaluating information. Awareness of sources of bias and misinformation.

Week #4 February 10 - 12 Critical Thinking in cross-cultural psychology
READ Ch. 3. Sources of bias in social thinking. Gender roles, marriage customs, and religious beliefs across cultures as examples of “hot button” issues.

Week #5 February 17 - 19 Applications – Health and Human Rights, Discrimination
READ Ch. 12. The AIDS pandemic, health and resource use, politics and rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Right from the United Nations. Issues in human rights around the world. Preparation for presentation on social life and customs of a people and ethnographic interview.

Week #6 February 24 No class Thursday – Rodeo Break!
Internet and library resources for research across cultures. Review for Quiz 1.

Unit 2 Psychological Processes

First Quiz Multiple Choice on Tuesday, March 3 – can use 2 page sides notes
First Quiz on chapters 1, 2, 3, and 12 and UN Declaration of Human Rights

Week #7 March 3 - 5 READ Ch. 5 Intelligence and Cross-cultural Measurement
Intelligence. IQ testing, sources of bias in measurement, genetic and environmental influences on IQ, ethics in the use of testing.

Week #8 March 10 - 12 Cognition: Sensation, Perception, and Consciousness
READ Ch. 4. Cultural interactions with sensory perception, time sense, and aesthetics. Dreams and altered states of consciousness.

March 15 – 21 Spring Break No Class!

Week #9 March 24 - 26 Emotion and its Social Expression

READ Ch. 6 Emotion Emotional experiences and expressions, emotional and value judgements.

Ethnographic Interview due Week 9. Work with instructor if you need help with contacts from another country or culture.

Week # 10 March 31 – April 2 Motivation and Behavior

READ Ch. 7 Evolutionary psychology, primary motivators - sex, food, aggression.

Achievement motivation, competition and cooperation in human societies. Review for second quiz, prepare 2 pages sides of notes.

Week #11 April 7 - 9 Human Development and Socialization

READ Ch 8 Human Development. Stages of development across cultures, family structures, age cohorts, socialization. Social “memes” and their replication.

Second Quiz on Tuesday, April 14 on chapters 4, 5, 6, 7

Unit 3 Developmental, Social, and Abnormal Psychology

Week # 12 April 14 - 16 Social Perception and Cognition

READ Ch. 10 Attribution theory, locus of control, beliefs about beauty.

Week # 13 April 21 - 23 READ Ch. 9 Psychological Disorders

American and International manuals and categorization of mental disorders. Universal and culture-bound mental illnesses, beliefs about mental illness, and treatment of the mentally ill and therapeutic methods in different cultures.

Social Interaction

Week # 14 April 28 - 30 READ Ch. 11 Cooperation and competition, social influence, conformity, social loafing.

Week # 15 May 5 - 7 Student Presentations

Cultural Diversity Paper Due if not already in – **Last Week to turn in written work!!**

Week # 16 May 12 Last Day for Student Presentations

May 14 Last Test multiple choice with review and notes

Writing Assignments:

All writing assignments must be typed, in a standard 12 point font, with at least one inch margins, preferably with 1.5 or double spacing. Make sure that your full name, as it appears on the class list, is at the top as well as which class you are enrolled in.

Extra Credit:

If you are interested in extra credit, bring in an international news story reported by a foreign news service, such as the BBC (Britain) al-Jazeera (Qatar) China Central News, etc.

Grading Policy and Point Assignments

Attendance: Max. 20 pts.

Three Quizzes (or in class activities) @ 20 - 30 pts. each: Max. 90 pts.

Tests will be given in class on the on the listed dates. The tests will be graded and returned the week after they are given. Make-up tests may be arranged in Testing Center.

Appreciation of Cultural Diversity – Event, Book, or Movie - Max. 30 pts.

Have fun and earn credit!! Attend an ethnic festival or cultural event, see a foreign film, or read a book set in a foreign country. We will discuss upcoming events in class. Write a brief commentary on what you learned from the activity.

Ethnographic Interview Each 30 pts.

Locate and interview a person who grew up outside of the USA regarding what their life was like there and what is different about living in their country or the USA. Guidelines will be provided.

Presentation on Social Life and Customs of a Selected Region / People / Culture Each 30 pts.

Create a brief presentation for the class on what it is like to live in a different place. This may be information on a place you have visited, where your ancestors are from, or a place that you have an interest in. Focus on the lifestyles of the people, in present times. You may want to narrow your focus to a particular ethnic or religious group, or an aspect of culture like music and art, etc.

REGIONS: 1) Latin America 2) Western Europe 3) Eastern Europe – former USSR 4) The Middle East – the Islamic World 5) India & its subcontinent 6) Asia 7) Pacific Islands

COMPARATIVE STUDIES: Select a holiday (like Mardi Gras) or a religion (like Islam) or a social practice (like alcohol consumption) and show how it is observed or practiced differently in two or more different places.

Course Total : 200 pts

Point Conversion To Letter Grade

180 - 200 points 90% A

159 - 179 points 80% B

138 - 158 points 70% C

117 - 137 points 60% D

Final grades will be posted through the College's computer system after the semester ends. Grades can only be discussed with the enrolled student due to privacy regulations, so please clarify how the instructor may contact you in a manner that maintains your right to privacy.